

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current Dish Network subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar, the guys who own Dish Network and DIRECTV. Where I live, I can't get broadband internet access like DSL or cable modem services. My local providers don't see a profit benefit to offering service to our somewhat remote (5 miles from town) 1800 home development. While we can get local cable service, it is very expensive for what you get and frankly, the quality is garbage. After numerous calls to my local cable provider to fix the picture I gave up and got satellite. WOW what a difference. While my neighbors are screaming about poor quality and ever increasing rates, my satellite TV quality is awesome and the increases have been very moderate. Only recently have I been able to get my local channels over satellite and it's great. Now I can get channels that I would have no hope of getting with a regular antenna and the picture quality is way better than that of my local cable company. Now I'm able to enjoy tons of channels at a reasonable price and now I'm looking for new technologies like high speed internet and High Definition TV. While I can get satellite internet now, it's so expensive I can't afford it and due to limited capacity, Dish Network is unable to add any more than the 5 HDTV channels they currently offer.

By merging the new company would be able to provide me more affordable broadband internet service and have the added capacity to not only add more HDTV channels but offer local channels to EVERYONE, whether they're in a competitive market like L.A. or out in the boonies where their only choice is an expensive poor quality cable company or 'rabbit ears'. Finally, people in my neighborhood have a choice other than the cable company and from as fast as Dishes are going up where I live, I'd say the choice is good.

Everyone should have the choice though, so I ask that you support the merger to not only get me more HDTV channels :) but to offer EVERYONE a choice in television and internet service. The competition may get these lazy cable companies is gear.

Sincerely,

Chris Oliphant  
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Corona, CA 92883